

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 1970

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

PARTICLE-BOARD AND PULP MILLS,
GYMPIE AREA

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Arising out of an application by the Widgee Shire Council for 50,000 acres in the Toolara area of the Gympie Forestry District for cattle, will the granting of the area for this purpose interfere with the planning for the particle-board factory and Kraft pulp mill, as outlined in his Answer to my Question on September 16? If so, to what extent?

Answer:—

"The Minister for Lands is presently in New Zealand with the Deputy Conservator of Forests, studying the needs and operation of major wood-using industries such as that it is hoped to see developed in the Tuan-Toolara region. This first-hand information together with many other relevant factors, will require to be taken into consideration when assessing the requirements and expected availability of pulpwood for this project."

RECEIPT DUTY

Mr. W. D. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

In view of the proposal by the Prime Minister to compensate the States for that portion of receipt duty found invalid by the High Court—

(1) Will Queensland receive reimbursement only at the rate of two cents per \$100 whilst all other States will receive reimbursement at one cent per \$10?

(2) If the Commonwealth agrees to reimburse Queensland for the balance of this financial year at one cent per \$100 on the items found invalid by the Court, will it be necessary to immediately proclaim increases embodied in the receipt duty legislation passed by this House in March last and will receipt duty on all other services except goods, such as stock exchange, bank transactions and not-new goods, then rise to one cent in \$10?

Answers:—

(1) "It would be extremely unjust to Queensland if reimbursement by the Commonwealth is paid only at a rate of two cents per \$100—whilst other States receive reimbursement at the rate of one cent in

\$10. Queensland has a financial need based on one cent per \$10 as indicated in my Budget Speech. Even at that rate I anticipate a State deficit of \$2½ million this year. This Parliament has already passed legislation—and this legislation was not opposed by the Opposition—to increase receipt duty to one cent in \$10 as applies in all other States, and no matter what funds the Commonwealth uses to make the reimbursement, such funds will have been collected from residents of this State on an equal basis with residents in the remainder of the Commonwealth."

(2) "If the Commonwealth is not prepared to make up the States' losses on the basis of one cent in \$10 covering complete discontinuation of all receipt duties, there is no alternative for the State other than to apply duty at the increased rate in all those areas in which the Commonwealth does not accept responsibility. There are, however, grave practical difficulties in determining exactly what the valid area of State taxation is. As a matter of fact to apply the duty fully in this valid area could cause such farcical situations that no Government should have to contemplate its application. For example, when I buy a new Australian made motor car it would not attract receipt duty. When I sell it as a second hand one it is dutiable. When a house is built, it involves goods and services so how can one decide how much of the transaction is dutiable? I am hoping that the Commonwealth Government will recognise these difficulties and the inequity of taxing one area at one cent in \$10 while exempting the rest altogether and that, in view of their shirt-tail arrangement with Senator Gair, they will come up with an offer of an arrangement which will allow the States to discontinue receipt duty entirely."

TRANSFER OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FROM
WARWICK

Mr. Davies for Mr. Bousen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Why are a number of tradesmen, a trades assistant and a train examiner to be transferred from the Warwick railway depot?

(2) To what station will they be transferred?

(3) Is he aware that the men have been informed that their transfers are to take place on October 31?

(4) As this is a breach of an agreement between the unions and the Department that, if and when employees are considered to be redundant they will be given six months' notice of transfer, will he give an assurance that the employees in question will not be transferred until the six months' notice has expired?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "The agreement to which reference is apparently being made related to employees of the Railway Department who were rendered surplus, consequent upon the dieselisation of services. Dieselisation was completed in December, 1969. The Commissioner for Railways is responsible for the economic working of the railways and the question of the disposition of staff to meet actual requirements is a matter for his determination. This matter has been raised with me by the Honourable Member for Warwick who has asked for a review of this decision which is being considered."

STAFF, WILLOWBURN RAILWAY
WORKSHOPS

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Bousen**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Is he aware that, due to men leaving, there are vacancies for two fitters at the Willowburn Workshops, Toowoomba?

(2) Have instructions been issued by the Commissioner that these vacancies are not to be filled?

(3) Is a quota of tradesmen allotted to the Willowburn Workshops? If so, why are these vacancies not being filled?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The level at which staff is required to be maintained at various locations to meet departmental needs is a matter for the Commissioner for Railways, who is charged with this responsibility under the Railways Acts."

MONEYS PAYABLE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES
ON CEASING DUTY

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Bousen**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

Further to correspondence with him regarding the cash credit account system which was operating at Toowoomba and transferred to Brisbane, and his advice that the change-over would operate smoothly and without delay—

(1) Will he explain why Mr. L. Ehrlich, an employee at the Willowburn Workshops, after giving two weeks' notice of resignation to the Department, was unable to collect all moneys due at the completion of his last shift of duty on September 18 and why it was necessary for him to wait until September 21 before his money was available?

(2) Will he give an assurance that, when employees cease duty to commence leave or for any other reason, their money will be available on completion of their last shift of duty?

Answers:—

(1) "The delay in making payment to Mr. Ehrlich was not attributable to the closure of the Cash Credit Account in Toowoomba but to the fact that the paysheets were not despatched from Toowoomba in sufficient time. The paysheet covering annual leave due to this temporary employee was received by the Chief Accountant on September 17, and the paysheet for time worked was received on September 18. Both cheques were forwarded to Toowoomba on Friday, September 18, and were available at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 21. There were, however, facilities which could have been availed of in Toowoomba to make payment to Mr. Ehrlich on Friday, September 18."

(2) "This is always the aim."

INJURY TO MR. R. D. MCCARTHY IN
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT

Mr. Hanlon, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

Further to my Question of September 24 regarding an injury to Ronald Desmond McCarthy and the advice by his Department on August 24 that it held no record of any investigation, and his Answer that this was because no statutory notice was received and the Department was not made aware of this incident at the time it occurred—

(1) Is he aware that Civil & Civic Pty. Ltd. have advised McCarthy's solicitors that the winch was on hire from Evans Deakin Plant Hire and that following the accident Machinery and Scaffolding Department officers were called in to inspect the winch which was stated to have a new cable in good working order?

(2) In view of this, will he state on what date the officers were called in, by whom they were called and, if it was prior to August 24, why McCarthy's solicitors, upon request, were not informed of the Department's investigation?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I am not aware of any advice given by Civil and Civic Pty. Ltd. to Mr. McCarthy's solicitors. Information contained in my Answer of September 24, namely that no statutory notice was received and the Department was not made aware of this incident at the time it occurred, was in accordance with advice furnished by the Machinery Department and I am now informed was based on no written statutory notice or advice being received. However, the Honourable Member will recall I also stated that investigations were being made into this incident. The Chief Inspector of Machinery who was absent overseas at the time now informs me that his investigations reveal

that verbal advice was received by an inspector on the date of the accident, May 11, and a visit was made to the site. The Acting Chief Inspector was not informed of this. The inspector concerned was on transfer to a country district and left Brisbane on May 14 without making a written report. The inspector concerned has been contacted and has stated he made some notes at the time and has been instructed to forward a written report immediately. Upon the receipt of this report, it will be open for perusal in accordance with the provisions contained in section 10 of the Inspection of Machinery Acts. The Chief Inspector has stated he has taken action to prevent a repetition of this kind in the future. In addition the circumstances have been reported to the Under Secretary for attention in accordance with the provisions contained in section 32 of the Public Service Act."

STAMP DUTY ON TRANSFER OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. Hanlon, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

Has any examination been made as to whether the 1 per cent. State duty payable on the transfer of motor vehicles would be, as far as new vehicles are concerned, in the nature of an excise duty in terms of the High Court decision on receipt duties with regard to the sale of new goods purchased in Australia?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member seeks an expression of opinion on the interpretation of a law. As he is aware it is not usual to give such opinions in answer to a Question. However, I have no reason to believe that the duty would be an 'excise' within the High Court's decision in the receipt duty cases."

HANDLING SURCHARGE BY QUEENSLAND GLASS MANUFACTURERS CO.

Mr. Jensen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) As the Queensland Glass Manufacturers Co. have advised customers that from August 1 a handling surcharge of \$25 will be made on each item on an invoice under \$125 value, will he have the matter investigated as the smaller merchants consider it excessive and an imposition?

(2) As the minimum 20 per cent. surcharge on each item under \$125 value will further increase the price of glassware to the public, will he consider placing the company under a price-fixing control?

Answers:—

(1) "I will examine the matter."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

EXCESS SUGAR PRODUCTION

Mr. Jensen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

As the 1970 crushing season is nearing completion and farmers in the Bundaberg district are concerned about surplus cane which may have to be ploughed in, what is the percentage of over-peak sugar which will be acquired by the Sugar Board for the 1970 season?

Answer:—

"The Sugar Board has already made a first determination to accept as 3rd Quota (Excess) Sugar a quantity equivalent to 5 per cent. of individual mill peaks. A fresh estimate of production is presently being obtained and the Board will make a final determination at the end of next week."

POLLUTION OF BURNETT RIVER

Mr. Jensen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to newspaper articles and photographs regarding massive fish kills by pollution in the Burnett River near Bundaberg on September 23?

(2) Have the analyses of the samples of water and fish which were forwarded to his Department been completed? If so, what caused the pollution?

(3) If the analyses are not completed, will he have them completed so that the people of Bundaberg will know that some action is being taken on this serious pollution problem?

Answers:—

(1) "No. The Department of Local Government was advised of this fish kill by Bundaberg City Council on September 24, and arranged for the council to forward samples of fish and water for examination and analysis."

(2) "On this occasion, it was decided to analyse the water for pesticides, metals and acidity. Pesticides were not detected in the water and the metal concentrations were not harmful. The water was slightly acid, but not sufficiently to harm the fish. Analyses on the fish samples are not yet complete, but it was observed that there was considerable mucous and fine particles in the gills. A survey of the river by the department on the Thursday prior to the fish kill did not disclose anything unusual."

(3) "The analyses will be completed. Officers of the Department are now of the view that the fish kills may result from some temporary deterioration of water quality which does not show up in samples taken later and are arranging to make a

continuous study of the river over a period of a week or so, in the hope that the cause of the kills can be detected. Further inspections will be made of possible sources of pollution."

DENTAL UNFITNESS OF NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINEES

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the statement by Brigadier Dean, Director of Dental Services in the Australian Army, that 80 per cent. of the intake of National Service trainees were dentally unfit and that their mouths were in a shocking condition?

(2) As this is an indictment of the dental services provided in this State, what does he or his Department plan to do to update and upgrade the dental services in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Brigadier's comments refer to the dental condition of National Service trainees of Australia generally, and I am at a loss to understand how the Honourable Member construes this as an indictment of Queensland's Health Services. Moreover, I would point out that the Department of Health is not responsible for the dental care of the total population of Queensland, though it does provide a service for people of limited financial resources who are unable to afford private dental treatment."

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) How many students graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry in Queensland in each of the years 1965 to 1970 respectively?

(2) How many are anticipated to graduate in the years 1971 and 1972?

(3) How many students are enrolled in the first, second, third and fourth years in the Faculty of Dentistry at the Queensland University?

(4) How many fellowships in dentistry will be granted in the next graduation group?

Answers:—

(1) "1965, 26; 1966, 21; 1967, 26; 1968, 38; 1969, 41. To date six students who passed supplementary examinations have graduated in 1970. A further 38 students in their final year are expected to graduate later in the year."

(2) "1971, 28; 1972, 28."

(3) "First year, 45; Second year, 43; Third year, 34; Fourth year, 32; Fifth year, 43."

(4) "It is anticipated that nine students who have been granted fellowships in dentistry will graduate at the end of 1970."

PASSENGER TRAFFIC, GEEBUNG AND BANYO RAILWAY STATIONS

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

What was the average daily number of passengers entraining and detraining respectively, at Geebung Station and Banyo Station for the weeks ended August 30 and September 27 or for the most convenient week during that period?

Answer:—

"These details are not recorded."

LIBRARIES, CAIRNS AND TRINITY BAY HIGH SCHOOLS

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

When will funds from the special Commonwealth grant for library facilities at secondary schools be made available and the construction of new library buildings commence at the (a) Cairns State High School and (b) Trinity Bay State High School?

Answer:—

"When the programme is being prepared for the next triennium, to commence in 1972, the provision of a library building for the Cairns State High School will be included. At the same time consideration will be given to the provision of a library building at the Trinity Bay State High School."

PROPOSED GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Mr. Bromley, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) When did preparations commence for the building of the Griffith University?

(2) What progress has been made in the planning and building stages?

(3) When is it expected that the university will be built and opened and what are the reasons for the delay?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Preparations for the building of Griffith University have not been commenced. I expect to be in a position to announce in the near future the appointment of an Interim Council which will be responsible for planning the new university."

(3) "If sufficient funds can be made available in the 1973-75 triennium, I anticipate that Griffith University will open not later than 1975. Both State and Commonwealth Governments are guided by the recommendations of the Australian Universities Commission in the matter of the establishment of new universities. The Commission recommended for the 1970-72 triennium a capital expenditure of \$200,000 and in addition a recurrent grant of \$50,000 to support the work in 1972. In deferring the building of Griffith University account was taken of the fact that with the funds available for university building more students could be provided for at St. Lucia and Townsville by building additional accommodation there than would have been possible by expending these funds on the building of the new university."

NEW ART GALLERY

Mr. Bromley, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) What is the total area and boundary of the site for the new art gallery?

(2) How much money has been spent on resumptions to date and what is the size of the property acquired?

(3) Will the \$500,000 allocated in the 1970-71 budget towards the site be spent on resumptions and, if so, what portion of the site will be resumed and will this conclude negotiations of purchase of all of the area concerned?

Answers:—

(1) "Approximately 6½ acres comprising 3½ acres bounded by Grey, Stanley, Peel and Melbourne Streets, and approximately 2½ acres bounded by Stanley and Peel Streets facing the river."

(2) "\$202,840. Approximately 3 roods 4.5 perches."

(3) "The Land Administration Commission is proceeding with resumptions of the various areas but, at this stage, it is not possible to state how much of the property will be acquired in 1970-71. It is anticipated that the amount allocated will be used for the payment of compensation this financial year."

MINERAL EXPORTS AND ROYALTIES

Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) How many tons of (a) coal, (b) bauxite and (c) mineral sand concentrates were exported during the past financial year?

(2) What were the export prices of these minerals?

(3) What was the ruling royalty rate and the total amount of royalties for each mineral for the financial year?

Answers:—

(1) "During the last financial year 5,558,626 tons of coal and 2,851,124 tons of bauxite were exported. The amount of mineral sand concentrates is not known but 202,586 tons were produced. Almost all of this would be exported. This figure is only approximate as all returns for the quarter ended 30th June have not been processed."

(2) "The total value of coal exported was \$53,060,509. The export price of bauxite is not known. The value of mineral sand concentrates produced was \$11,986,087."

(3) "Royalty rates—coal, 5c per ton; bauxite, 5c per ton local, 10c per ton overseas: Mineral sands—rutile, \$1.50 per ton; zircon, 25c per ton; ilmenite, 10c per ton; monazite, \$2 per ton. Royalty received 1969-70—total coal (export and domestic), \$358,825.21; bauxite, \$99,871.95 local, \$198,473.30 overseas: Mineral sands—rutile, \$95,425.76; zircon, \$12,385.34; ilmenite, \$73.21; monazite, \$19.08."

TRAFFIC FLOW, BOUNDARY ROAD,
COOPERS PLAINS; NYANDA RAILWAY
CROSSING

Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) Because of the increasing volume of vehicular traffic on Boundary Road, Coopers Plains, between Beaudesert Road and the State railway crossing, when will road widening and improvement to the traffic flow take place?

(2) In view of the increasing traffic congestion at the boom gates across Boundary Road on the Beenleigh line and the long periods of closure of the gates in peak times, will he investigate the improving of the traffic flow at the crossing?

(3) When will work commence on the elimination of the Nyanda railway crossing?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Boundary Road is no longer declared under the Main Roads Acts and is now the responsibility of Brisbane City Council."

(3) "A grade separation scheme is being designed at Nyanda railway crossing. Its release depends on the completion of the complex design and the availability of funds."

NEW POLICE ACADEMY

Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) What was the cost of preparatory work for the commencement of construction of the Police Academy for its opening?

(2) How many tradesmen and other employees were diverted to the preparation of the site for the opening ceremony?

(3) Were tradesmen who were employed on construction work on schools diverted to this work?

(4) Is it a fact that the preparatory work for the ceremony is not part of the building programme and will be demolished when the celebration is over?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "The works activity on the site of the new Police Academy at Oxley is in fact the necessary preparatory work for commencement of building operations. The labour force presently employed thereon is but a small fraction of the total departmental work force in the Brisbane area and this does not retard construction of school buildings approved at this stage. An estimated expenditure of \$250 is involved in preparations peculiar to the ceremony to which the Honourable Member refers. Labour employed on these preparations has been minimal, and after the ceremony the marquee, chairs and public address system will be removed."

BULIMBA CREEK BRIDGE AND MOUNT GRAVATT—CAPALABA ROAD

Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

In view of my continued representations concerning the state of the Cleveland sub-arterial road between Creek Road and Capalaba—

(1) Has further consideration been given to the resealing of this road and in particular the bad section between Mount Petrie and Creek Roads, Belmont?

(2) What is the life expectancy of the traffic bridge over Bulimba Creek on this road and what plans are under consideration for its replacement?

Answers:—

(1) "Provision has been made for resealing the worst sections of this road this financial year."

(2) "Major maintenance was carried out on this bridge fairly recently and the bridge is considered to be in reasonable condition. There are no immediate plans for its replacement."

ANTI-LITTER BY-LAWS, REDLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

In view of the article appearing in *The Courier-Mail* of October 1 which stated that the Redland Shire Council has introduced stronger anti-litter rules, what are the new by-laws covering the dumping of rubbish and litter and the fines approved by his Department for this offence?

Answer:—

"I wish to advise that the by-laws mentioned in the Question were approved by the Governor in Council on September 3, 1970, and published in the *Government Gazette* on September 5, 1970."

FIRE ON EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAND, STRATFORD

(a) **Mr. B. Wood**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) Is he aware of a fire which spread from land reserved for the Education Department at Stratford, Cairns?

(2) Is either the Education Department or the Works Department liable to pay compensation for the damage caused by the fire?

(3) What clearing was the contractor required to carry out?

(4) As the site was formerly a cane farm, will he ensure that the ratoons are ploughed in to prevent regrowth?

(5) Will his Department have discussions with the Rural Fires Board so that future clearing of Crown land will be done in a safe manner?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) "A contract was let in July last for the clearing of all secondary growth of cane, high grass and vegetation from an area of land which has been resumed as a site for a future high school at Stratford. The specification provided for the area to be lightly bull-dozed which should prevent regrowth and the vegetation stacked in heaps, windrowed and burnt under Fire Brigade supervision. The contractor obtained a permit from the Fire Brigade Board as required but a fire occurred and was put out by the Brigade which has billed the contractor. It is understood he is claiming on his insurance company. So far as can be ascertained, the fire did little or no damage as the burnt area was open country without fences. All necessary precautions were taken."

(b) **Mr. B. Wood**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) What prosecutions have been conducted in the Cairns area during the last 12 months against persons responsible for grass or bush fires?

(2) Has his attention been drawn to a fire which spread from Crown land at Stratford, Cairns, and caused serious and permanent damage to forests on adjacent hillsides?

(3) Is it planned to take any action against the contractor responsible, whether by prosecution, recovery of fire-brigade costs or compensation for damage to the forest?

(4) Are voluntary firefighters eligible for compensation for injuries received while assisting in fighting grass or bush fires?

Answers:—

(1) "During the past year seven cases of suspected breaches of the Rural Fires Act have been investigated in Cairns and environs. Of these, two investigations revealed no evidence of a breach, one revealed a minor offence for which a caution was issued, one case was not proceeded with for legal reasons, one was prosecuted and the offender was fined \$30, one case is currently being prosecuted and one is subject to further investigation."

(2) "The fire referred to is apparently one which was attended by the Cairns Fire Brigade; and reports of fires attended by brigades operating under the Fire Brigades Act, which is under the administration of another Department, are not normally made to the Minister for Lands. In the present case, however, the fire under question is apparently the one which has been inspected and discussed by the Rural Fire Inspector at Cairns and the Chief Officer of the Cairns Fire Brigade. The Rural Fire Inspector has reported the incident in his September report and there is a suggestion that this fire may involve the application of the Rural Fires Act. No comprehensive police report on such evidence as may be available to sustain prosecution action has yet been submitted."

(3) "In all cases where a breach of the Rural Fires Act is in evidence and where circumstances indicate that proceedings are warranted this action is taken. The Rural Fires Act also preserves the rights of action in respect to any loss, injury or damage caused by the wilful, reckless or negligent use of fire. The decision on either or both of these actions will depend on the content of the full report on the incident. In regard to recovery of fire brigade costs, this is a matter within the decision of the Fire Brigade Board concerned, and as provided for in the Fire Brigades Act."

(4) "Voluntary fire fighters who are members of a registered Bush Fire Brigade and such casual fire fighters as may be acting under the control and direction of the First or appropriate officer of a registered Bush Fire Brigade are covered by Workers' Compensation in the event of injury sustained during fire fighting operations."

MINING ROYALTIES AND RENTALS,
MOUNT ISA DISTRICT

Mr. Inch, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) What were the amounts of royalties received from mining companies in the Mount Isa district for the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69?

(2) What amounts were received for rentals on mining and special leases in each of these years?

(3) What were the amounts received for rentals on miners' homestead perpetual leases in Mount Isa during these years?

Answers:—

(1) "1966-67, \$1,069,732.70; 1967-68, \$432,966.50; 1968-1969, \$312,991.19."

(2) "1966-67, \$47,333; 1967-68, \$51,505; 1968-69, \$71,963."

(3) "1966-67, \$48,887; 1967-68, \$57,417; 1968-69, \$65,324."

STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. P. Wood, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

For the last twelve-month period for which figures are available, how many motor vehicles were reported to the Police Department as being stolen or missing in Queensland?

Answer:—

"During the twelve-month period September 1, 1969, to August 31, 1970, 2,696 motor vehicles were reported stolen or unlawfully used in the State of Queensland. Separate statistics are not kept within the Police Department concerning the offence of stealing a motor vehicle."

ASSAULT ON SCHOOL TEACHER BY
STUDENTS

Mr. Davies for Mr. Baldwin, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

In view of the extent of the injuries inflicted in and the circumstances with respect to the alleged assault by two students of the Yeronga Technical College on an instructor, Mr. N. Buckley, during working hours—

(1) Did both students named in the allegation take part in the attack?

(2) Did either student attempt to restrain the other or did either stand by and watch the other?

(3) Did the investigating officers question the lecturer who found the victim of the alleged assault and, if not, will he direct that the investigation be re-opened and completed?

(4) On completion of the further investigation, will he advise the House of his decision in the matter?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "This incident has not been considered by me as it does not come within the purview of my portfolio. I suggest that the Honourable Member direct his Question to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing."

HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, LOGAN ELECTORATE

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Baldwin**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

With respect to the Electorate of Logan, how many completed houses are waiting for (a) rental tenants and (b) purchase?

Answer:—

"In respect of the Queensland Housing Commission (a) 2; (b) nil. Houses not sold during construction are readily rented on completion."

BREATHALYSER TESTS OF MOTORISTS

Mr. Dean, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) How many breathalyser tests were taken during the past 12 months and how many prosecutions were conducted against motorists whose tests recorded above the allowable percentage of .08?

(2) How many motorists have received 100 points or more for breaches of the Liquor Act since the implementation of the legislation?

(3) What action is taken against a drink-driver who has 100 points recorded against his driving licence?

Answers:—

(1) "During the 12 months ended August 31, 1970, 2,987 breathalyser tests were taken, and 2,669 prosecutions were launched against motorists with alcohol readings above .08."

(2) "No motorists have received 100 points or more under the Traffic Act for drink-driving."

(3) "It is not possible for a motorist to receive 100 points because action would be taken earlier by the Superintendent of Traffic under Regulation 134 of the Traffic Regulations to cancel the driver's licence."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

EXPORT MEAT FROM CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Mr. V. E. JONES: I ask the Minister for Transport: Will he indicate whether, since my last question regarding the movement of meat from Central Queensland in containers, he has had conferences with the meat exporters and, if so, advise the House of the results?

Mr. KNOX: Some weeks ago I saw the exporters, who indicated to me that they wished to support their traditional ports for the export of meat. Last Friday, after they had had a conference in the South—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Will the Minister please speak up. "Hansard" must be experiencing some difficulty in hearing him.

Mr. KNOX: It is not my fault; I speak rather loudly.

Mr. Jensen: Hold your head up and speak up.

Mr. KNOX: The hon. member cannot be interested in the answer if he interjects while I am speaking.

Last week I again met the exporters, who indicated that they would be exporting meat in containers, for the United Kingdom trade, through the Port of Brisbane. I have offered the meat exporters the services of the railways to allow them to export meat through their traditional port of export, but the matter is entirely up to them as to which port they use.

GREENVALE NICKEL PROJECT

Mr. R. E. MOORE: I direct the following question to the Treasurer: In view of the desire of the Queensland Government to create greater industrial development in North Queensland, will the Treasurer indicate that he will reconsider his attitude towards the Greenvale nickel project and endeavour to find ways to overcome the deadlock between Metalsex-Freeport and the Government as a result of which the project may be abandoned? From information I have been given, this could well happen.

Mr. CHALK: I believe that I explained the position quite clearly in the House recently. However, it is true, as the hon. member has said, that there has been certain Press publicity indicating that there is a deadlock between the State Government and the negotiators relative to the Greenvale project.

This is a very important issue to the State of Queensland, and, in reply to the question, the facts of the matter must be explained.

In the early stages the Greenvale negotiators placed before the Government certain figures on the availability of nickel that they had located, its content, and the quantum that they know has been proved and can be worked over 20 years. These people then decided to install a small smelting plant to treat 2,500,000 tons of nickel-ore per annum. Based on the reserves that they have proved, they have a 20-year supply.

Nickel today is worth \$2,000 a ton—in fact, it is worth a little more than that—and the return is estimated at 1 ton of nickel to 150 tons of wet ore. On the figures provided it is clear—and the company does not deny it—that the return to the company in the first five years of operation will represent a profit of approximately \$39,500,000; in the second 5 years the profit will be \$75,500,000; in the third 5 years it will be \$114,000,000; and in the last five years it will be \$147,000,000. Those figures total \$376,000,000, after amortising the cost of the railway and paying royalties to the State.

Approximately \$224,000,000 will be left for the shareholders of this organisation after it has repaid the money it has borrowed, which has been amortised in the cost, and after payment of tax. I believe, therefore, that the State is entitled to ask for the return that it is seeking in freight rates and royalties. My advisers have estimated those sums to amount to \$50,000,000.

I certainly want to see this project go ahead, and I believe that the terms and conditions laid down by the State are fair and equitable both to the shareholders of the company and to the State of Queensland.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS

Mr. LICKISS: I ask the Treasurer: Has he read the leader in today's issue of "The Courier-Mail" urging the Queensland Government to seek financial assistance from the Commonwealth Grants Commission? If tomorrow's Premiers' Conference in Canberra proves abortive, will he immediately take such action to try to secure financial help for this State?

Mr. CHALK: I believe that in my Budget speech I indicated the three avenues that were open to this State if the receipt duty legislation could not be proceeded with.

I have a high regard for the leader-writer in "The Courier-Mail" but in his article this morning all he has indicated is that the Premier and I should approach the Commonwealth Grants Commission for help to overcome our difficulties. If we cannot get from the Commonwealth Government the funds that I believe we, as a State, are entitled to, we may be left with no alternative other than to go to the Commonwealth

Grants Commission. I remind the leader-writer of "The Courier-Mail" that if we are forced to go to the Grants Commission it will be because Senator Gair and the D.L.P. have indicated that they will vote against the receipt duty legislation. The A.L.P. said it would oppose it, but if the D.L.P. had said it would support it, all the chaos that has been created throughout Australia would have been avoided. If Mr. Gair wants to take the credit for having upset the equilibrium, he must also take the criticism.

Let me remind every hon. member and every Queenslander that we have a system of free hospitals which is not applicable in any other State. If we approach the Grants Commission, one of the first things we will be required to justify are the payments made by the State under its free hospitals scheme. After all, the Grants Commission takes an over-all view of taxation. If education receives a certain vote in one State and a smaller vote in another State, the Grants Commission takes a basis between the two principal States, namely, Victoria and New South Wales. But those States have no free hospitals and are not contributing in the same manner as we are. If we are forced to approach the Grants Commission and by some mischance our free hospitals scheme goes down, I lay the blame at the feet of Senator Gair.

PROTECTION OF CROCODILES

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: Has his attention been drawn to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 26 September, headed, "Minister Holds Fears on Future of Crocodile" in which the Minister for Education is quoted as saying, *inter alia*, "I don't think there could be 5 per cent. of the original number of crocodiles left alive in the area."? In view of the Minister's advice to me on 18 May last that he understood on factual information that there is no great urgency in the matter of the conservation of crocodiles in Queensland, can he give this House information to establish the correctness either of his statement or that of the Minister for Education?

Mr. ROW: Firstly, may I say that reptiles do not come under the Fauna Conservation Act and therefore I do not have any control over the destruction or taking of either the fresh-water, or Johnstone River, crocodile, or the salt-water crocodile. At the same time, I am concerned about the statement made by the Minister for Education on his recent northern visit. Prior to his statement I was having a survey of crocodile numbers made through my fauna officers. It will be appreciated, of course, that a census of crocodile numbers in estuaries and salt-water areas is a pretty difficult undertaking. Nevertheless, I am getting some information on the matter.

I am particularly concerned about the fresh-water, or South Johnstone, crocodile. I know that the very small ones are being taken, and that is my main concern. Until I receive the report from my officers I cannot make any further statement.

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION BOARD

Mr. HINZE: I direct the following question to the Premier: Is he in a position to give the House any further information about the Government's plan to establish a rural reconstruction board in Queensland? Is he able to say at this stage what the composition of the board will be? Under whose ministerial control will it operate, and when is legislation likely to be introduced?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question appears to relate to Government policy. As such it is no more permissible than one on notice would be.

Mr. HINZE: I shall drop the last part of the question concerning legislation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! It deals with a matter of Government policy.

HANDLING SURCHARGE BY Q'LAND GLASS MANUFACTURERS CO.

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Labour and Tourism whether, in view of his answer to my question today that he is investigating a matter, will he, when the investigation is complete, give the information to the House?

Mr. HERBERT: I will supply the information to the hon. member.

DESTRUCTION OF GREAT BARRIER REEF BY CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH

Mr. KAUS: I direct a question to the Minister for Labour and Tourism without notice: Has his attention been drawn to the statement on the A.B.C. national news this morning by Dr. Endean to the effect that the Great Barrier Reef, from Cooktown to Townsville, has been destroyed by the Crown of Thorns starfish? What effect will this have on coral-viewing facilities at Green Island, and does it mean that Dr. Endean would approve of coral-dredging and oil-drilling in this part of the destroyed reef?

Mr. HERBERT: I heard the statement by Dr. Endean. I am very disturbed that it has been given national publicity, because the reply certainly will not be so publicised. Last year 75,000 people visited Green Island and not one of them complained. I have made arrangements for Matson Line cruises to call there. No doubt the Australian directors of that company heard the news broadcast this morning that the Barrier Reef, from Cooktown to Townsville, has been destroyed. That is a very disquieting sort of statement, and I would like it known that not one of the 20 island resorts off the Queensland coast has been affected adversely by the Crown of Thorns starfish. The Cairns Underwater

Swimming Club recently conducted a survey of an area of 14 square miles around Green Island and did not find one Crown of Thorns starfish.

If any credence is to be given to the statement that the reef from Cooktown to Townsville has been destroyed, last year 75,000 people were deluded into thinking that there is still coral in that area. Unfortunately, these stories get more and more publicity the farther away they get. Recently I was on a promotion tour in Western Australia, and every second person connected with it sympathised with me because we had lost the Barrier Reef.

I have no control over Dr. Endean. Although I agree that the news media should publish his statements, they should also publish reputable reports issued by the people on Green Island and in Cairns, who can advise Dr. Endean that the island and its coral are still there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Will the visitors in the gallery please try to be quieter when leaving, and will the officers up there please ensure this. During question time there is far too much noise in the gallery. Unless the children can leave more quietly, I shall be forced to cease inviting them.

RADFORD REPORT ON EDUCATION

Mr. P. WOOD: I wish to ask the Minister for Education a question without notice concerning the implementation of the Radford Report. Will this be the last year for the Junior examination, and will 1972 be the last year for the external Senior examination?

Mr. FLETCHER: Yesterday morning I answered a question which related to times and dates. In my opinion, this year's Junior will be the last, and, depending upon the progress of the experts who advise me in this matter, I fully expect that the 1972 Senior will be the last. I am quite sure that the hon. member, with his background, would realise that exact dates and times cannot be pinpointed at this moment. However, for what it is worth, that is my opinion, and it is backed up by the opinion of the experts in my department.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT "EVENTIDE", SANDGATE

Mr. HOUGHTON: I ask the Minister for Transport: As the installation of traffic lights is presently under review, will the Minister give favourable consideration to the installation of traffic lights outside "Eventide", Sandgate, which have been requested repeatedly by me and the hon. member for Sandgate?

Mr. KNOX: This question should be directed to the Minister for Main Roads because this matter is controlled by the traffic authorities, either the Main Roads Department or the municipal authorities. However, I shall pass the recommendation on.

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL PROPERTY
PURCHASES FOR ADMINISTRATION BLOCK

Mr. PORTER: I ask the Treasurer a question arising from reports of massive property deals by the Brisbane City Council. Can he inform the House if any arrangements have been entered into between the Brisbane City Council and the Government concerning the financing of the proposed city council administration block involving Lennons Hotel, and who is providing the finance for the purchase by the Brisbane City Council of the Industrial Acceptance Corporation's building, as announced yesterday by the Lord Mayor?

Mr. CHALK: I read in this morning's Press that arrangements had been made by the Brisbane City Council to purchase the Industrial Acceptance Corporation's building, which adjoins the Lennons Hotel block. The basis on which the council will pay for the building is not known to me. I know however, that the Brisbane City Council has some funds on which the Lord Mayor has been operating in making certain purchases and resales of property. It is assumed by me, of course, that he is not diverting loan moneys for the purchase of this building, and that he is buying it from certain funds that the council has.

The second part of the question refers to what is known as the administration project, which is something that the Lord Mayor has been talking about during his nightly sessions, and also in public places, for a long time. The Government indicated to the Lord Mayor some time ago, particularly following the problems that arose at the Loan Council over the Sandgate sewerage scheme and the King George Square car park, that in future, before any venture that involves matters of finance associated with the Loan Council can go forward, the Government will expect from the council a full report on how the project is to be financed.

As I know it, the present position relative to the proposed administration block is that the council does own certain property in that area. No doubt the I.A.C. building mentioned this morning will add to the property that the council owns in the area. I think that the National Bank still owns the property which is occupied by an agency at present, and I know that Lennons Hotel is still in the hands of its own shareholders.

It is true that a proposal has been put to the Brisbane City Council. I have seen that proposal, but I have indicated to the Lord Mayor that, so far as the Government is concerned, it will have to be a complete developer project not involving the council in any way. If it was financed on that basis, it would be outside the ambit of the Loan Council.

I know that in the last few days the Lord Mayor has referred to the fact that the North Sydney Council has entered into an undertaking with a developer for a

\$50,000,000 project in that city. The Lord Mayor has more or less asked publicly what the position will be, having regard to what is happening in Sydney, if the Queensland Government lays down certain conditions in Brisbane. All I can say is that the information I have at the moment on the Sydney project indicates that it does differ slightly from the one that the Lord Mayor has in mind, in that it is a proposed over-all commercial undertaking. What the Brisbane City Council is talking about relative to the Lennons project is premises for its own administration, with an additional car park and arcade. As I see it, there is a difference between the two projects, but I have asked for certain information from Sydney so that I can reply to the Lord Mayor.

At the present moment, the Government is not involved in the provision of any finance for this undertaking. If it can be done by a private developer, that is a matter between the Brisbane City Council and the developer.

EFFECT OF DROUGHT ON STATE FINANCES

Mr. BIRD: I ask the Premier: Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition claimed the Government was using the drought as an excuse for its financial difficulties. What is the true position?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I was rather surprised that in the debate yesterday the Leader of the Opposition should try to belittle the seriousness of the effects of the drought on the people of this State who live in drought areas, and on the Government, particularly as the Bureau of Meteorology recently issued a Press statement to the effect that this is the worst drought in the history of Queensland. Yesterday the Director of Primary Industries stated that since 1964 Queensland, and consequently the primary producers, has lost about \$500,000,000 in revenue from primary production, and that in the last 12 months primary producers in Queensland have lost about \$218,000,000 in production. These are serious aspects, both to the people of Queensland and to the Government.

VACUUM-OPERATED DOORS IN BUSES

Mr. HUGHES: I direct a question to the Minister for Transport. Further to my question referring to the Coroner's findings in the recent case of the death of a lady bus passenger on Brisbane's transport service owing to the bus not being equipped with a door, and his answer that the Commissioner for Transport was making recommendations and getting in touch with the council on the matter, can the Minister now inform the House of the recommendations of the Commissioner for Transport and how they can be reconciled with the council's stated views that it does not propose to take any action to equip its buses with doors? Also, is this in any way a breach of the authority granted

to the council by the State Transport Commission, and what action can be taken in this regard?

Mr. KNOX: I think on a previous occasion I mentioned to the hon. member that the Commissioner for Transport had brought to the notice of the Brisbane City Council the findings of the Coroner relative to the accident he mentioned. The Commissioner has received from the council a reply which does not indicate that it will not be making the required alterations to its buses.

I have read a statement in the Press—it is not attributed to any particular officer but is a general statement—that the council has not yet taken any action in relation to its buses. In view of the hon. member's question, I will ask the Commissioner to make a further inquiry as to what action will be taken by the council, and when.

"R" CERTIFICATES FOR FILMS

Mr. WRIGHT: I direct a question to the Minister for Justice. Will the Minister advise if consideration has been given to introducing an "R" certificate for theatrical films? Will this certificate be similar to the "X" certificate in England, and will such introduction result eventually in a preponderance of sex and sadism films in public theatre houses, as the new classification will favour the producers of such films against those who concentrate on films for general exhibition?

Dr. DELAMOTHE: I ask the hon. member to direct his question to the Minister for Local Government and Electricity, who is in charge of film censorship.

Mr. WRIGHT: I do so accordingly.

Mr. RAE: I ask the hon. member to place the question on notice. Quite frankly, I was thinking of something else and was not listening to his question as it was being directed to the Minister for Justice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I hope hon. members will remember that during the course of my short lecture to them prior to the introduction of questions without notice I pointed out that they were responsible for directing their questions to the appropriate Ministers. A Minister to whom a question is not directed in the first place cannot be expected to answer if it is then immediately redirected to him. I suggest that the hon. member place his question on notice as suggested. In future, if a question is directed to the wrong Minister I will automatically order that this be done.

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. If a Minister has made a public statement through the Press on a certain matter, surely he should be responsible for answering the part of the question covered by such statement, as happened on this occasion. The

Minister for Justice made certain statements on this matter at a conference of Attorneys-General.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! It is entirely up to the Minister concerned. In questions without notice, as in questions upon notice, a Minister is responsible for either answering the question or not answering it. No member can demand an answer from a Minister, whether the Minister is responsible for the department concerned or not.

POLICE ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. A. M. HODGES (Gympie—Minister for Works and Housing): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Police Acts 1937 to 1964 and the Police Superannuation Act 1968 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. A. M. HODGES (Gympie—Minister for Works and Housing): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Police Superannuation Act 1968 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

INTEREST ON LOANS FROM CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (12.3 p.m.): The matter of public interest that I intend to deal with is the effect of increased interest rates on shareholders of co-operative housing societies when the money advanced has been obtained from banks and insurance companies.

At the outset, I want to make it quite clear that my contribution is not an attack on these lending authorities, who have done so much to assist this scheme. The co-operative building societies have been forced to approach them because of the flood of applications for finance other than that received from the Home Builders Account. As a result of the recent increase of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in the rate of interest on money loaned by these authorities, the directors of the co-operative societies found themselves in a very embarrassing situation. The increase brought the matter to a head for the shareholders, who are actually the borrowers from the co-operative housing societies.

When any increase occurs in interest rates it is necessary for the directors of a particular group to call the shareholders together to pass a resolution that the increase in the interest rate be applied to their group. That means, in effect, that the shareholders—the borrowers—are asked to approve an increase in interest rates, which will, in turn, increase their repayments.

Recently, the shareholders in one group asked what would happen if they refused to pass such a motion. Under the Act, the directors informed them that the provisions of the Act relative to default would have to be carried out; that if the procedures were not adhered to, we would have no alternative other than to close the group and sell the homes. We believe that the Government, having introduced the legislation—and it has done a great deal to assist home-ownership in the State—should examine this serious problem. Interest and repayment rates are two important factors in encouraging home-ownership and they must be kept as low as possible.

The permanent building societies have overcome the problem by extending the period for repayment of loans. Under the Co-operative Housing Societies Act we cannot extend the repayment period beyond 30 years. When interest rates rose from 5 per cent. to 5½ per cent. we thought that, instead of increasing repayments, we should extend the period, but we were pulled up very quickly and told that we could not do that under the Act. We had to automatically increase the repayments, although the permanent building societies can extend the repayment period when interest rates are increased.

Recently, the interest rate for this group, which has been in existence since 1960, rose from 6 per cent. to 6½ per cent. The borrower I have in mind had to pay an extra \$4.90 a month. This increase prompted the shareholders to ask that serious consideration be given to their problems. The group was formed on 23 July, 1960, when the interest rate was 5 per cent. On 16 May, 1961, the rate increased to 5¼ per cent. I might add that shareholders have to be advised when they apply that there is a possibility of interest rates being reduced as they are governed by the Commonwealth bond rate, but that has not yet happened. In 1966 the rate increased to 5½ per cent., in 1968 it rose to 6 per cent., and the present increase brought it to 6¾ per cent.

I think every hon. member realises what will happen to the Co-operative Housing Societies Act if action is not taken to overcome this serious problem. When people have to pay interest at 6¾ per cent. on \$8,000 or \$9,000 borrowed from a building society, home-ownership is not encouraged, as was intended by the Government. The situation is serious. A person in this particular group who borrowed \$8,000 was committed to pay \$47.33 per month 10 years ago. However, now that the interest rate has been increased from 5 to 6¾

per cent., his monthly repayment is \$56.90, which is \$14.20 per week. A person who has borrowed \$9,000 will have to repay \$63.90 a month or \$15.50 a week. Those figures indicate clearly that something must be done about this steep increase in housing loan interest rates in this State. I use the Co-operative Housing Societies Act to illustrate my point because it is the one that affects us vitally at this juncture.

Nine out of the 21 groups that one very reputable co-operative housing society has in operation at present would be affected by this increase. I appeal to the Government to look into this serious situation and consider making an approach to the Commonwealth Government, because, after all, it was the Commonwealth Government which introduced the legislation providing that co-operative building societies be set up and that so much of Home Builders' Account funds be allocated to them.

I point out that the interest rate on money advanced from the Home Builders' Account has not risen at all, and this creates confusion among shareholders. People in one group who have been advanced money from that account are paying 4 per cent. interest and have been since the Act came into force and probably since the first money was lent from the Home Builders' Account.

(Time expired.)

QUARRYING OPERATIONS, ASHGROVE AREA

Mr. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha) (12.13 p.m.): I rise on a matter of public importance concerning the Ashgrove quarry. A good deal of public concern exists in The Gap, Ashgrove, Bardon, and, indeed, all the north-western suburbs of Brisbane, over the possible extension of the Ashgrove quarry and the possibility of other extractive industries being established in that area. The people there understand that the situation is in a state of flux by virtue of the zoning which presently obtains, namely, non-urban.

With the emphasis on conservation, pollution control and the preservation of man's environment, and in the light of sound planning principles in this city, I ask the Minister for Local Government, as a matter of urgency, to set aside this land and zone it so that it cannot be used for extractive industry purposes in the future. I could find no more opportune time than the present for the Minister to take this action because the Brisbane City Council, it is alleged, has already indicated by resolution that the present quarry should not be extended.

The people in the area are naturally concerned with the situation because of the uncertainty surrounding the issue, and I again make a plea to the Minister to put the matter beyond doubt. The people are concerned about the injurious affection of their pleasant suburbs, which were developed with the approval of the Brisbane City Council. They

are also concerned at the possible deterioration in the value of properties; the generation of traffic in a first-class residential area which was not designed to cater for such traffic; and the noise and dust menace created by such noxious industries. Last but not least, they have a constant fear of blasting mishaps which, it cannot be denied, have already occurred and on one occasion with near-tragic results.

I believe that the Minister for Local Government has a duty in the public interest to put this matter beyond doubt. The Brisbane City Council, as the authority responsible for the planning of this city, has already indicated that it will not permit extension of the present quarry.

Speaking generally on extractive industries, I believe that the Government should come down with a sound policy and, if necessary, include in the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act special zoning provisions for extractive industries. Indeed, I believe that extractive industries should be allowed within the Greater Brisbane area only where they are considered to be absolutely essential. To my mind, a proper planning authority would endeavour to have extractive industries placed beyond the bounds of the city. Certainly no extractive industry should, either now or in the future, be situated anywhere near existing or potential residential lands. If the establishment of such industries is necessary in the interests of the public, they should be developed only in areas where a minimum disability would be caused to the citizens and the general environment.

If proper zoning provisions could be incorporated in the Act, they should permit extractive industries only after all the necessary preliminary steps have been taken. In the first place, there should be proper access to the site of such an industry. It should be well removed from residential areas. It should be established in such a way that buffer zones exist to reduce noise, pollution and risk to human life.

This is a very pressing matter that affects many thousands not only in my electorate but also in the electorates of Ithaca and Ashgrove. I make a plea to the Minister to act positively and expeditiously in this matter, and to ensure that the development of extractive industries in residential areas is knocked out once and for all.

OFF-COURSE POOLS AND DIVIDENDS FOR T.A.B. INVESTORS

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (12.18 p.m.): I rise to speak on a matter of public importance, namely, the Totalisator Administration Board, especially in regard to the on-course punter being able to use to his advantage the off-course punters' money. On 16 September, 1970, I asked the Treasurer—

"Is it a fact that advantage is taken of the off-course punter by on-course investors who can compare indicated totalisator odds

with those offered by bookmakers and that bookmakers frequently invest substantially on the on-course totalisator to finance their books, often further reducing the potential dividend to the off-course punter?"

The Treasurer replied, "The assumption is reasonable."

I also asked—

"Are dividends paid to off-course patrons reduced by over half a million dollars per annum due to the merging of off-course and on-course pools and, if not, what figure represents the net amount paid by the T.A.B. to the on-course Tote in this regard?"

The Treasurer answered—

"Yes, but it is impossible to calculate the amount involved."

The answer "Yes" was to the first part of the question, which was—

"Are dividends paid to off-course patrons reduced?"

The Treasurer answered "Yes," but then he said that it is impossible to calculate the amount involved. I very much doubt the truth of the latter statement, because I believe that the Treasurer could ascertain the amount quite readily.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is imputing improper motives to the Treasurer. He may not use such expressions. I ask him to withdraw them.

Mr. JENSEN: I withdraw them. I will state it as my opinion that the amount could be ascertained readily, provided the Treasurer did not attempt to give the figure to the exact dollar.

On 17 September I asked the Treasurer two supplementary questions, the first of which was—

"In view of his confirmation that dividends paid to off-course patrons by the T.A.B. are reduced by approximately \$500,000 per annum by merging with on-course operations and that advantage can be taken of the off-course patron by persons on-course, is this situation fair and reasonable to off-course punters?"

The Treasurer replied—

"The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. I did not infer in my answer to his question on 16th instant that 'dividends paid to patrons are reduced by approximately half a million dollars per annum.' What I did say was that 'it is impossible to calculate the amount involved'."

But he did not reply to the last part of the question—

"Is this situation fair and reasonable to off-course punters?"

Further, it is important to note that on 16 September the Treasurer said, "The assumption is reasonable," in reply to the question, "Is it a fact that advantage is taken of the off-course punter?"

The second question that I asked on the 17th was—

"Will he examine the practicability of separating T.A.B. pool and dividends entirely from the on-course totalisator and arranging with the clubs to have T.A.B. agency windows clearly distinct and separate from the on-course totalisator to be available on-course for those who wish to utilise them under the same conditions of race closing times, etc., as apply to T.A.B. agencies off-course?"

The Treasurer's reply was—

"No. The Government in establishing the T.A.B. indicated that it desired to combine racing interests and not to establish betting pools away from race tracks."

The succinct "No" to the establishment of separate pools seems most unreasonable when consideration is given to the unpredictable expansion of the T.A.B. over the past eight years. Also, if it is correct that "the Government in establishing the T.A.B. indicated that it desired to combine racing interests and not to establish betting pools away from race tracks," why are off-course pools conducted on days and nights when money cannot be transferred to an on-course totalisator? In addition, I believe that the doubles pool and the trebles pool are not transferred to the course. That, surely, must be against the so-called policy of eight years ago.

As Harry Davis, sports editor of "The Courier-Mail," says—

"It's all right, when it suits, for the Government to ignore policy."

Later he says—

"Or does the Government really care about the off-course punter?"

I say now that if the Government does not care, it should, because the annual report of the T.A.B. shows a turnover of approximately \$70,000,000. Of that amount, 51.1 per cent. is from the country, and today I am supporting the country T.A.B. punter, who is getting a raw deal.

In 1963, when only \$8,000,000 was invested, the country's share was 31.5 per cent., compared with 68.5 per cent. in the metropolitan area. The effect on the country off-course punter was not very significant, because his total investment was less than one-third of a small pool of \$8,000,000; but today it is over half of a very large pool of \$70,000,000.

I believe that the off-course punters, especially those from the country who bet blind compared with the on-course punters, are being robbed to the tune of over \$500,000 a year—and it is daylight robbery

by bookmakers and big racing interests. Further, with the transfer of amounts to the course, any errors made by the on-course totalisator have to be compensated for from T.A.B. funds, and this also affects the T.A.B. punter's dividend. This fact was indicated by the Treasurer in reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Baroona.

It is interesting to note some of the big dividends paid by the T.A.B. on mid-week racing in southern States when there are no metropolitan meetings and money cannot be transferred to the course. These dividends are big when compared with bookmakers' starting prices in the southern States.

The Minister for Justice should step in and see that the legislation is altered so that either there are separate pools or the on-course punter must bet under the same rules and conditions as the off-course punter. If this were done the T.A.B. could reduce its closing time from 40 minutes before starting time to 30 minutes, maybe even to 20 minutes. The present 40-minute period was fixed to allow the amounts to be conveyed to the course so that they would be there 10 minutes before race starting times. This period of 10 minutes grace gives the on-course punter time to slaughter the dividends due to the off-course punter, but the Minister in charge of racing does not seem to care. Does he want to protect the big men in racing and forget about the small T.A.B. punter, who provides most of the profit for the Government?

Mr. Hanlon: The chap who goes to the course in provincial cities does not get this advantage.

Mr. JENSEN: No. It is only the city punter who gets the advantage.

To me, this is a matter of serious import and if the Minister in charge of racing will not correct it, then the Minister for Justice, through the Cabinet, should see that it is corrected in the interests of the people as a whole.

It is interesting to note that the T.A.B. balance sheet does not show the fees paid to board members. The Treasurer supplied the figures in answer to a question I directed to him on 23 September. Balance sheets of companies usually show directors' fees and expenses. Why does the T.A.B. report hide these figures? Expenses of board members and the cost of the many parties are not shown separately but are hidden under the heading "all other expenses". Why is it that the Minister in charge of racing does not want the Auditor-General to audit T.A.B. accounts? He has often said this. The hon. member for Baroona has brought the subject up in various speeches, but the Minister has got around it by saying that the present auditors are quite satisfactory.

This is a \$70,000,000-plus Government industry and the Auditor-General is not called on to check it. It is big business. There has been an increase in turnover from \$8,000,000

to \$70,000,000 in eight years. A public auditor's responsibility would finish with certifying the accounts and receipts. It would not be within his jurisdiction to question spending on particular items or heavy expense accounts.

We have seen firms such as H. G. Palmer, Reid Murray and Stanhill Consolidated collapse, yet their auditors did not indicate that things were going to the dogs. In some cases they even showed them as profitable businesses. It is time the Minister had the T.A.B. accounts audited by the Attorney-General. At its present rate of growth the turnover will reach \$100,000,000 in a few years. In its wildest dreams the Government would not have expected this rate of growth, and it is time that some of the outdated policy was changed to give justice to those who really support the T.A.B.

(Time expired.)

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HUGHES (Kurilpa) (12.28 p.m.): I have something that I desire to bring to the notice of the House as a matter of public interest. It deals with the relationship between the Brisbane City Council and people of this city, particularly the treatment of people who desire to lay a complaint before the council. In the existing circumstances as I know them and from matters that have been brought to my attention, I believe that many people in this city are having shabby treatment meted out to them by the council and that the council is riding roughshod over citizens and their requirements.

When a person takes up a matter with an alderman, as many do, and the alderman either has not got any action or has not taken any notice of the complaint or request of the elector, it is natural that he will do one of two things; either write direct to the council or get in touch with his local member of Parliament.

Mr. Davis: What C.M.O. alderman is doing this?

Mr. HUGHES: I will name the alderman, if the hon. member will be patient. We have to look not as much at a particular alderman as at the system, the administration, and the way it is being conducted. When electors cannot get results through their aldermen they get in touch with their State member of Parliament. The Brisbane City Council functions under the City of Brisbane Act and is the daughter of its parent, the Parliament. The citizens take the natural course, and in so doing appeal to their member to try to get some results for them. The member of Parliament is obliged as a matter of public duty to take up the matter and render whatever help he can.

In these cases the Brisbane City Council refuses to act. This policy has come into vogue recently; it has not been practised previously. The hon. member for Sandgate

served with me as an alderman in the Brisbane City Council for many years, and I am sure that he would agree with me when I say that no administration, whether Labour or C.M.O., had a policy of refusing to act on the complaints made by a citizen, whether that citizen made them through a member of Parliament or direct to the council. Today the administration has adopted a policy of saying to a citizen that he must write direct to the alderman and take the matter up with him.

I have been asked for an example, so I shall give one. On 19 June of this year I wrote to the Town Clerk as follows:—

“Dear Mr. McAulay,

“I have been contacted by residents of Dudley Street West, Annerley, regarding a dust nuisance and deplorable condition of the road due to the laying of cables.

“It would be appreciated if you could have the various matters of these complaints in relation to the above attended to at your earliest convenience.”

In addition, I took the matter up personally.

On 24 June I received a reply over the signature of the Town Clerk, saying—

“... regarding a dust nuisance and the alleged deplorable condition of that roadway of that street.

“I would be grateful if you would refer this matter to Alderman L. R. T. Dutton, the Ward Alderman, whose responsibility it is to deal with these matters.”

On 23 July I wrote again to the Town Clerk, saying that I had written to him on 19 June bringing the matter to his attention and seeking remedial action by the council to correct the situation that had arisen. In my letter I quoted the Town Clerk's reply to my first letter, and continued—

“It appears from this letter than unless requests are made direct to the Ward Alderman, no notice whatever is taken of complaints and requests to the Council even when properly directed to the Town Clerk as required by Council Ordinance. Could you please ascertain and advise me if this is Council policy or a new and somewhat startling departure from (a) Ordinances, and (b) as a means to obviate citizens making complaints or bringing matters to the notice of the appropriate authority. Could you advise me if, in future, a citizen, whether by request or on his own behalf, will not have any action taken regarding his or her requests or complaints unless such are directed to the Ward Alderman?”

Matters of this type could affect all hon. members, particularly those who represent metropolitan electorates.

On 4 August I received a reply from the Town Clerk, which said, among other things—

“... aldermen are elected and receive remuneration to represent ratepayers and residents of their particular wards on matters coming under the jurisdiction of the relevant local authority . . .

"This Council has always taken and will continue to take appropriate action where citizens directly complain or draw attention to matters coming under its jurisdiction. However, it is considered that members of the House of Representatives and Legislative Assembly should direct any complaints on matters affecting the Council to an alderman of the Council."

The letter then asked me to take the matter up with Alderman L. R. T. Dutton, as suggested in the Town Clerk's earlier letter.

The contention of the council is not correct. I ask where do people go from there? Some sorry citizens are receiving shocking treatment. They certainly get the run-around. Having complained to an alderman who does not act, they take the matter up with their local member of Parliament and ask him to do something about it, but the council says, "Refer it back to the alderman." It is the same old merry-go-round and the citizen does not get attention or justice.

I believe that some aldermen have swelled heads and that generally the administration is growing away from the people by adopting a couldn't-care-less attitude. That can be seen in things that are wrong in the city: the Acting Lord Mayor sacrificed the affairs of the city to march in the moratorium and other Labour aldermen neglected their duties to do likewise while so much work waited to be done. They were prepared to jettison the requirements of the city and its citizens in favour of time-wasting, confusing and subversive elements. Instead of working inside the City Hall, they were out chanting obscenities and otherwise breaking the law. It must be admitted that they were neglecting their job.

The city council ordinances require people to address correspondence to the Town Clerk. If that is done the administration should take cognisance of complaints, but people are now denied the right to complain. I am greatly concerned about this denial of citizens' rights. Because of the way in which the city is being administered there are fewer prospects of justice being administered to its citizens. It now takes three months and more to get a site approval and that is just not good enough. People are certainly getting the run-around. Look at the holes in streets and roads. Brisbane has worse roads than any other place I have seen. I have not been everywhere in the world, but places with worse roads than ours must be almost virgin scrub. It is time these matters were looked into. Citizens' complaints are not being attended to, and the submissions of members of Parliament are not being considered. The council refuses to act. It is time that we had an ombudsman in the council, someone to whom the citizens could appeal. Last year the Government gave the council about \$4,500,000 by way of subsidy. I do not know how much it will give this year, nor

does the council, because it has not completed the work schedules on which the subsidy payment is based.

Mr. Houston: Why did you oppose the idea of an ombudsman?

Mr. HUGHES: I did not oppose either a Government of a council ombudsman. The Leader of the Opposition should support the appointment of a council ombudsman. If ever there was such a need it exists now, because of the downhill flight of the city and the way in which the Lord Mayor takes to himself certain rights, regardless of the Loan Council. Under him the city is running into bankruptcy on a toboggan. This state of affairs will affect the hon. gentleman's children as well as mine, and all taxpayers of the future. Brisbane will be in a sorry state in years to come. Something must be done. The Leader of the Opposition should be cognisant of the need to protect citizens' rights.

(Time expired.)

ALLOWANCES TO STUDENT TEACHERS AND FELLOWSHIP-HOLDERS

Mr. BROMLEY: The matter of importance that I wish to deal with relates to the numbers of teachers who will be available in various spheres throughout the State in the future. On 24 September I asked the Minister for Education a question without notice relative to allowances paid to student teachers entering training colleges. He replied, "This is a technical detail of which I have no knowledge." When I told him that he should have knowledge of it he said, "I will certainly find out what the details are. If an anomaly exists we will correct it." Was it corrected? Certainly not. In reply to a question on notice that I asked yesterday—it was the same question—the Minister said—

"Commencing students at teachers' colleges next year will not be paid allowances from January 1. Payment will be made from the commencement of the college year, i.e., February 2."

Students are being interviewed at present, and in my opinion now is the time to have this matter aired and the anomaly corrected. The Minister said he would correct the anomaly, but so far he has done nothing but confirm my suggestion that this money is not being paid to students.

The Minister and the Government must be condemned for ever for this decision to eradicate progress in the teaching profession. Education generally is declining in this State because of the lack of money allocated to the department. The Minister and the Government have adopted a pinch-penny and miserly attitude towards student teachers at the various teachers' colleges.

Mr. Hinze: You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. BROMLEY: If the hon. member had gone to school and now took a little more interest in education matters he might know something about the subject I am dealing with.

This decision will create havoc in the intake of students and must have a deleterious effect on the education system in a very short space of time. The Government's policy is miserable and shortsighted. How will it affect promotion, long service leave, etc.?

Let me illustrate what will happen with the implementation of this scheme, together with the normal practice not to pay fellowship-holders until the commencement of the university year. The Minister and the Government should look at this and strive for uniformity in the payment of student teachers and fellowship-holders as from 1 January in each year. The amount saved under this new scheme will be far outweighed by the irresponsible and irreparable damage done. First of all, the cutting out of these allowances will result in a lower intake of students. They will not sign up if they have to wait for weeks before receiving any money. Some or perhaps most of them will look elsewhere for jobs, temporary or otherwise. If they inform their prospective employer that they will be working for him for only a few weeks, they may not secure employment to tide them over, and if they do not tell him, they are not commencing their working lives in an honest way. If they are hired, they might decide that the job is suitable, and will not leave. Therefore they will be lost to the teaching profession for ever. This is a very serious state of affairs, and it should be looked into.

Students who are living away from home are far worse off because they have to leave the country areas and come to Brisbane to get accommodation and settle in and be ready to start off at the teachers' college.

In my question, I asked the Minister whether he, Cabinet, or the department had made this decision. In his reply, he said that the decision was made, not by any of them, but by the Public Service Board. Surely the training of teachers comes within the ambit of the Department of Education. In any case, it was a shocking and disgraceful decision and was a retrograde step in education.

One of the worst features associated with the training of teachers is that scholarship and fellowship-holders, although they are in a sense employees of the Department of Education, are not covered by workers' compensation whilst travelling to and from college or university. I know cases of student teachers who were involved in accidents and whose futures have been completely ruined because they were not entitled to workers' compensation and had to rely on unemployment and sickness benefits.

This is something that should be rectified. Many potential student teachers have been to see me about these problems, and I stress to the Minister and the Government the need for a sympathetic general appraisal of the position of scholarship and fellowship-holders. The Minister told me, no doubt quite genuinely, that he would have a look at the situation and make sure that if any anomaly existed he would correct it.

I appeal to the Minister, on behalf of all those student teachers who have been to see me, to see that justice is done and that these students are given a fair go. If he does that, the education system will benefit in the long run. The present policy is short-sighted and shows a pinch-penny attitude, and, because of it, the teaching profession and the education system generally will suffer. Many who would otherwise become student teachers will take other jobs and, finding that they satisfy them to a certain extent and provide them immediately with money, they will retain them. Many will find that they and their jobs are compatible, and they will not leave their employment to begin training as teachers. Too many are now being lost to the teaching profession because they are not getting a fair go. The president of the Queensland Teachers' Union, Mr. Semple, has stated that an additional \$20,000,000 should have been spent on the teaching profession.

This matter of public importance that I have brought before the House today is one that should be given serious and sympathetic consideration by the Government, and there should be no delay in the payment of allowances to those about to undertake training as teachers.

ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Mr. HINZE (South Coast) (12.48 p.m.): The matter of public interest to which I wish to refer is electoral redistribution within this State. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition claimed that he could not see any budgetary allocation for this purpose. Today's "Telegraph" also contains the statement in the "Stop press" column that at a meeting tonight Liberal members are going to back the suggestion of 78 seats.

Ever since I have been in Parliament I have wanted to speak on redistribution, but I have always been told that it is a matter for party organisations. I want to place it quite clearly on record that, so far as I am concerned, it is a matter for the Government parties. It is not a matter for party organisations alone, and so far as I am concerned, apparently those organisations have broken down. The people of Queensland want a redistribution. They want a fair redistribution, and they want it now. If we are not careful, they are going there will not be sufficient time for a redistribution to be carried out before the next election.

I make particular reference now to the South Coast electorate. As I keep on repeating, it is one of the fastest-growing areas in the State. When my predecessor, Eric Gaven, last stood for election there were 9,000 voters on the roll. At the 1969 election, there were about 18,000 on the roll, and I think there would be about 22,000 on the roll at present. If there is no redistribution before the next election, I, as one of 78 members, will be representing about 27,000 people in the State of Queensland before a redistribution is possible. That is not fair and reasonable. I will back my postage costs, my phone bills and my time against those of any other back-bench member in this House. I am prepared to show hon. members the volume of correspondence that I have to deal with. Frankly, I believe that I could walk round one or two of the electorates in Brisbane before breakfast, and I want to see a fair and reasonable distribution.

Yesterday I put forward an argument on electoral redistribution. As at 31 December, 1969, there were 336,000 more people in the State of Queensland than there were in 1958. Hon. members know that consideration is being given to giving 18-year-olds a vote. I believe they are entitled to a vote, and I hope they get it—the quicker the better! If they do, there will be 436,000 new voters on the roll. Surely if in 1949 the Labour Government of the day increased the number of seats from 62 to 75—an increase of 13 seats—when the number of voters increased by only 201,000, hon. members opposite should be fair and honest and admit that today, with an increase of 436,000, an increase is justified.

Mr. P. Wood: It is a stupid argument.

Mr. HINZE: It is not a stupid argument. The hon. member knows as well as I do that it is a reasonable argument.

Mr. P. Wood interjected.

Mr. HINZE: I am prepared to give the 18-year-olds a vote; I want to give them a vote. I want to be sure that the people of Queensland have adequate, equal and fair representation. I cannot agree with the silly idea that an increase in seats is not justified. Of course it is!

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HINZE: Hon. members opposite know as well as I do that the A.L.P. has its tongue in its cheek when speaking of the 18-year-olds. The Opposition knows that it would increase the number of seats if it was in Government.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

Mr. HINZE: I say to the A.L.P.—I say it to the Liberal Party too—“Stop playing politics and let us have a redistribution.”

Taking the figures for 1963 and 1969, there were 341,343 voters on the roll in the metropolitan area in 1963 and 381,251 in 1969—an increase of about 40,000. In the provincial areas there were 160,542 on the roll in 1963 and 179,170 in 1969—an increase of 18,628. In the country areas there were 337,738 on the roll in 1963 and 385,162 in 1969—an increase of 47,424. The total increase between 1963 and 1969 was 106,260. In spite of that, we hear members of the A.L.P. and the Liberal Party claiming that there is no justification for an increase in the number of seats. History records that an A.L.P. Government increased the number of seats by 13 when it had the opportunity.

Mr. Houston: Do you think the Liberals are playing politics on this?

Mr. HINZE: I do not know whether they are playing politics. That is a matter for them to decide. I am putting a clear case to show that an increase in the number of seats in Queensland is justified. As far as I am concerned, no political party believes in the idea of one vote, one value. The A.L.P. does not believe in it, the Liberal Party does not believe in it, and the Country Party certainly does not believe in it. So let us drop overboard the cock-eyed idea of one vote, one value.

I have heard the argument used that the Country Party is governing the State with the support of a minority of voters. What is the position? In the 26 seats won by the Country Party, it received 58.97 per cent. of the valid vote.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HINZE: Hon. members opposite can get to their feet and challenge my figures if they wish to do so. In the 19 seats won by the Liberal Party, its candidates received 55.3 per cent. of the valid vote, and in the 31 seats won by the Labour Party, its candidates received 58.04 per cent. of the valid vote.

In the 39 seats the Country Party contested, it received 49.7 per cent. of the valid vote; in the 44 seats the Liberal Party contested, it received 40 per cent. of the valid vote; and in the 77 seats the Labour Party contested, it received 45 per cent. of the valid vote.

Mr. Houston: On your argument the D.L.P. should be the Government because it got the biggest percentage.

Mr. HINZE: I am not interested in the D.L.P.; it can push its own barrow.

It must be recognised and accepted that it is about time we did something of a concrete nature about electoral redistribution in this State. The people want it and they want it quickly. They will not stand for dilly-dallying and stupid arguments between the Government parties, with one saying that the number of seats will remain at 78 and

the other that the number should be increased to 82. I am not prepared to stand by and allow the organisational wing of either of the Government parties to play politics in this matter. The people of this State deserve and demand something better. I cannot adequately represent 27,000 people in the South Coast electorate.

Mr. Bennett: You could not even represent 20,000.

Mr. HINZE: I do a much better job on the Gold Coast than the hon. member does in South Brisbane, and he has only about 11,000 electors. In his electorate there are no service clubs and only one bowling club, and I suppose his contributions as patron of various clubs would be about \$10 a year.

The point I am making is that inadequacy of representation has resulted from a shift in population, and it is very important that we tell our organisations that if they cannot do the job they should give it back to Government members and we will do it for them.

The House adjourned at 12.58 p.m.
